

Ser. No. 10/767,315  
Group Art Unit 3746

### Remarks

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. In the Final Office Action, claims 1-16 have been rejected and claim 17 has been objected to but indicated to contain allowable subject matter. It was noted that claims 7-11 should have been allowable based on the Examiner's comments in the Final Office Action. These claims were the subject of a telephonic interview as noted in the Examiner's Interview Summary. The applicants thank the Examiner for his time and consideration of these claims and the prior art references.

During the interview, it was noted that claim 7 requires that the first set of system ports extend into one of the sides of the first end cap in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the input shaft and therefore are allowable over the cited art, as confirmed in the Interview Summary.

In the present Response, claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17, and claim 17 has been cancelled. Therefore, claim 12-16 are also believed to be allowable.

While claim 17 did not depend from claim 1, the allowable subject matter of claim 17 has been included in claim 1 and it is believed that claim 1 is now allowable for the same reasons. Claims 2-6 which depend from claim 1 should also be allowable.

Claim 8 was amended to make it consistent with claim 7, and claim 13 was amended to make it consistent with claim 12. Minor amendments were made to some of the other claims. For example, claims 1, 7 and 12 were to change the word "mounted" to "disposed." This amendment is not intended to change the scope of the claims but merely to improve the clarity, since the term "mounted" is also used in a somewhat different sense elsewhere in the claims. The other changes were intended simply to correct minor antecedent basis problems or to

Ser. No. 10/767,315  
Group Art Unit 3746

improve readability, and are not intended to change the scope of the claims. None of these amendments require more than a cursory review and they do not require any additional searching.

It is respectfully requested that these Amendments after Final be entered and that this case be granted a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

Amendments to the specification and to Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings were previously made. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate whether these amendments have been accepted.

Finally, it is requested that in the next communication the Examiner return and initial the Information Disclosure Statement indicating review of the foreign references, as referenced in the Response to Office Action filed on August 5, 2005.

It is believed that Applicant has addressed all of the outstanding matters and it is requested that this application be granted a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date. Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

Date: JAN. 4, 2006

By: Thomas C. McDonough  
Thomas C. McDonough, Reg. No. 33,734  
NEAL, GERBER & EISENBERG  
Two North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 269-8000

NGEDOC5: 1159077.5